

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An accessing method comprising:

attempting access of a first networked entity having a first preselected security level by a search engine having a second preselected security level;

allowing access of the first networked entity by the search engine upon the second security level being equal to or higher than the first security level;

attempting access of the search engine by a user having a third preselected security level;
and

allowing access of the search engine by the user upon the third security level being equal to or higher than the second security level.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the search engine presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the first networked entity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the first networked entity querying a second networked entity to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the first networked entity,

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the user presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the search engine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the search engine querying a second networked entity to determine if the security level of the user is equal to or higher than the security level of the search engine.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6,1, ~~further comprising the search engine presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the Web server wherein said first~~
networked entity is a Web server.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7,1, further comprising ~~the Web server querying a directory to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the Web server attempting access, by a plurality of search engines each~~
having an associated preselected security level, to a plurality of networked entities each having an associated preselected security level; and

allowing access to networked entities by search engines having a security level equal to or higher than a respective networked entity.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6,8, further comprising ~~the user presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the search engine attempting access by the user, to at least one of the plurality of search engines; and~~

allowing access by the user to search engines having a security level equal to or below the user.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:

a first networked entity having a first preselected security level; and

a search engine having a second preselected security level, wherein the first networked entity allows access by the search engine upon the second security level being equal to or higher than the first security level; ~~and a user having a third preselected security level~~, wherein the search engine allows access by ~~the~~ a user having a third preselected security level upon the third security level being equal to or higher than the second security level.

12. (Original) The network of claim 11, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to the first networked entity upon the search engine attempting access of the first networked entity.

13. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 12, further comprising a second networked entity, wherein the first networked entity queries the second ~~network~~networked entity to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the first networked entity.

14. (Original) The network of claim 11, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to the search engine upon the user attempting to access the search engine.

15. (Original) The network of claim 14, further comprising a second networked entity, wherein the search engine queries the second networked entity to determine if the security level of the user is equal to or higher than the security level of the search engine.

16. (New) The network of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of search engines each having a preselected security level, wherein each search engine of the plurality of search engines is allowed access to networked entities, of a plurality of networked entities, that have a security level at or below the security level of a respective search engine.

17. (New) The network of claim 16, wherein the user is allowed to access search engines having a security level at or below the security level of the user.

18. (New) A network comprising:
a plurality of networked entities, each having a preselected security level; and
a plurality of search engines each having a preselected security level, wherein each search engine of the plurality of search engines is allowed access to networked entities having a security level at or below the security level of a respective search engine, wherein a user having a preselected security level is allowed access to search engines having a security level at or below the security level of the user.

19. (New) The network of claim 18, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to a networked entity upon a search engine attempting to access a networked entity.

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20. (New) The network of claim 18, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to a search engine upon the user attempting to access a search engine.